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Yuriy Vladimirovich ANDROPOV
(Phonetic: ahnDRAWpuf)

USSR

General Secretary and Member, Politburo, Central Committee, Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Addressed as:
Mr. Secretary

Yuriy Andropov was elected General Secretary on 12 November 1982 succeeding Leonid Brezhnev who died just two days before. Andropov is a Communist Party (CPSU) career official with experience in both domestic and international Communist affairs. He became a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee in April 1973, after having been a candidate member for six years. In May 1982 he was elected to the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee; he had previously served on that body during 1962-67. From 1967 until May 1982 he was Chairman of the Committee for State Security (KGB).

Much of Andropov's early career was in the Komsomol (Young Communist League). After having served in local Komsomol groups, he was elected Komsomol first secretary in the newly formed Karelo-Finnish Republic in 1940. During World War II he organized guerrilla bands and worked in the underground apparatus behind German lines. Andropov began his party career in 1944 as second secretary of the Petrozavodsk City Party Committee, and two years later he was elected second secretary of the Karelo-Finnish Republic's Communist party. During 1951-53 he worked in a department of the CPSU Central Committee in Moscow.

Andropov was posted to the Embassy in Budapest as a counselor and Charge d'Affaires in 1953 and became Ambassador the following year. When he returned to Moscow in 1957, he became chief of the Department for Liaison with Communist and Workers' Parties of Socialist Countries on the CPSU Central Committee, a post he held until 1967. He has been a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet (legislature) from 1950 to 1954 and 1961 to the present.

Andropov, 68, holds four Orders of Lenin.

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